Minimum Nuclear Deterrence

1763. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America has urged India to spell out her need for minimum nuclear deterrence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.S.A. is pressing Pakistan also for declaring her minimum nuclear deterrence; and

(d) the stand of the Government in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India has declared that it shall maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. The US and other interlocutors on nuclear issues have requested an elaboration of our concept of such a nuclear deterrent.

(c) Yes Sir. Government have seen press reports and US statements to this effect.

(d) Government has conveyed that India's approach is not derived from Cold War doctrines and is based on our own assessments. India is not engaged in an arms race. India's minimum deterrent can not be elaborated in terms of a fixed quantification; it is a policy approach dictated and determined in the context of our security environment. Government have also conveyed thal matters relating to defence postures are sovereign func tions and, therefore, not subjects to negotiations.

Seventh Round of Indo-US Talks

1764. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the seventh round of Indo-US talks between the US Deputy Secretary of States Mr. Strobe Talbott and Indian Foreign Minister; and

(b) how far US and other P-5 countries are nearer to withdrawing sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The recently held talks with the United States in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 1999 were in continuation of the dialogue initiated in June, 1998. After several rounds, the talks had narrowed and now focussed on the four issues namely, CTBT, FMCT, Export Controls and Defence Posture.

As in earlier meetings, the security perspectives of the two sides were further clarified with a view to harmonising respective perspectives. Both sides have recognised that the purpose of the talks is to lay the foundation of a broad-based relationship between India and the United States. A joint statement was issued on January 31, 1999 at the conclusion of this round, wherein both sides expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the talks. The text of the Statement is attached.

It has been decided that Indian-US expert level teams will meet in March for follow-up talks on export controls. The leaders of the delegations will also remain in contact. While these talks continue, both sides will endeavour to create a positive atmosphere for advancing their relations.

(b) The US imposed restrictive economic measures on India under the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act 1994 (NPPA), popularly known as the Glenn Amendment on May 13, 1998.

In the Guidelines defining the scope of "sanctions" on June 18, 1998, one relaxa-

tion was made, namely, the US would not oppose basic human needs loans from international financial institutions.

In July 1998, the US Congress passed an amendment called "Agriculture Export Relief Act of 1998" which took out of the purview of "sanctions" any credit, credit guarantee or financial assistance to support the purchase of good or other agricultural commodities including fertilisers. Aslo exempted from "sanctions" were medicines and medical equipment.

On November 6, 1998, on the basis of authority given to the US President by the Brownback Amendment passed by the US Congress, partial lifting of "sanctions" was announced. The order given effect to these relaxations were signed by the US President on 1 December, 1998. These relaxations are:

- Restoration of US Exim Bank, Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) and Trade Development Agency (TDA) Programmes
- Restoration of lending by US Banks
- Restoration of International Military Education and Training (IMET) Programme

The US Government stated that it was taking this step in recognition of the progress made in the dialogue with India.

On February 18, 1999, the US and other P-5 countries did not obstruct the approval of a World Bank loan for infrastructure and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

No first use of nuclear weapons by India and China

1765. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India have lately committed to the 'No first use of Nuclear Weapons';

(b) if so, what further confidence building measures have been taken by India and China during the last three months; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to further strengthen ties between the two people and the nations and establishment of a peace security regime in Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) India has announced a policy of 'no-first-use' and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. China has committed itself to a policy of non-first of nuclear weapons and undertaken not to use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon countries and nuclear weapon-free zones.

India remains committed to seeking good relations with all our neighbours, including China. We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, jointly enunciated by India and China are of continuing relevance to the development of our relations. We are committed to the resolution of outstanding differences through a process of dialogue.

Foreign Office Consultations in the framework of the Protocol on this subject concluded in August 1997, were held in Beijing on February 25-26, 1999. The talks covered bilateral, regional and international issues. The two sides agreed that the talks enchanced mutual understanding and on continuation of the dialogue at various levels.

The establishment of friendly, constructive, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China will contribute to the strengthening peace and stability in Asia.

भारत की विदेश नीति

1766. **श्री चीमनीभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने वर्तमान विदेश नीति किस वर्ष में बनाई थी और उसके मूलभूत उद्देश्य क्या थे,

(ख) क्या वर्तान विदेश नीति उद्देश्य को पूरा करने में विफल साबित हुई हैं,

(ग) क्या सरकार नई विदेश नीति बनाने पर विचार कर रही हैं, और